

X-MEN

MARK OF GAIN

MARVEL

TM

#2

FRED VAN LENTE
DENNIS CALERO



love
Emma Frost

Cash-strapped mercenaries



Angel in the clink



All-new, All-different trouble



by FRED VAN LENTE & DENNIS CALERO, with

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Bend over.



You could at least ~~grunt~~ buy me flowers first.

Droll.



Do not lose or break your cup.

You will not get another cup.



What...?



Have a seat, Mr. Holloway.

Genosha Bay Penitentiary was built by Quaker missionaries.

The idea was to isolate prisoners from each other so they could contemplate the gravity of their sins.

Hence the term "penitentiary." Root word, "penance." From the Latin *paenitentia*, meaning...



... "deep regret."

I, however, do not care whether you regret what you've done or not.

You cannot be rehabilitated.

The devil in you is biology and cannot be exorcised.



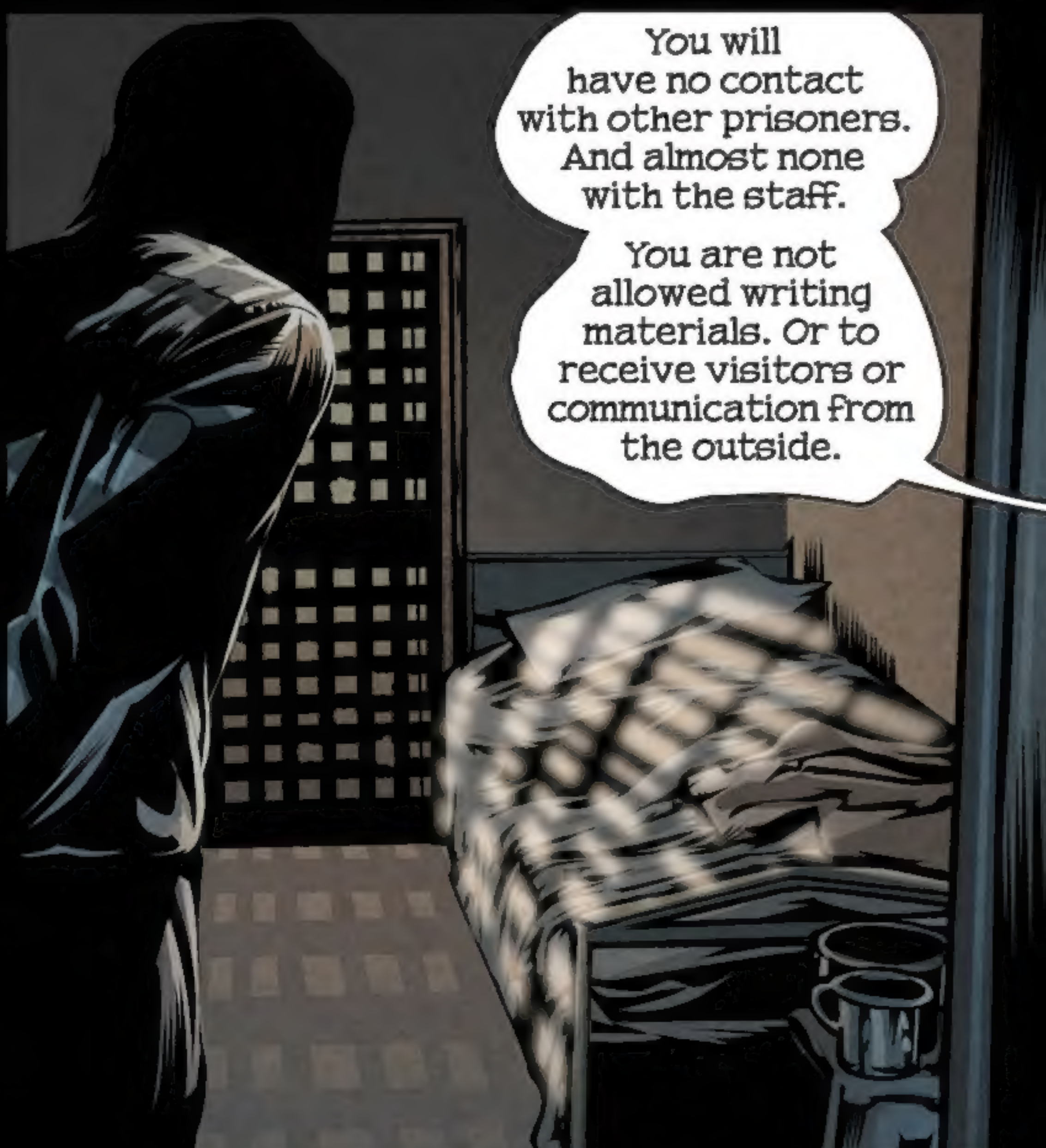
I will keep you isolated, though. Not for your good.

But society's.



You will have no contact with other prisoners. And almost none with the staff.

You are not allowed writing materials. Or to receive visitors or communication from the outside.



A guard will let you out in your own private exercise yard for an hour a day.



Weather permitting.



And thus have I described the last remaining days of your life.



Do you have any questions?



No.

I'll see you soon, Warden Frost.



Oh?

You think you're getting out of here?



I know I am.

And I already know how.



I wouldn't bet on it.

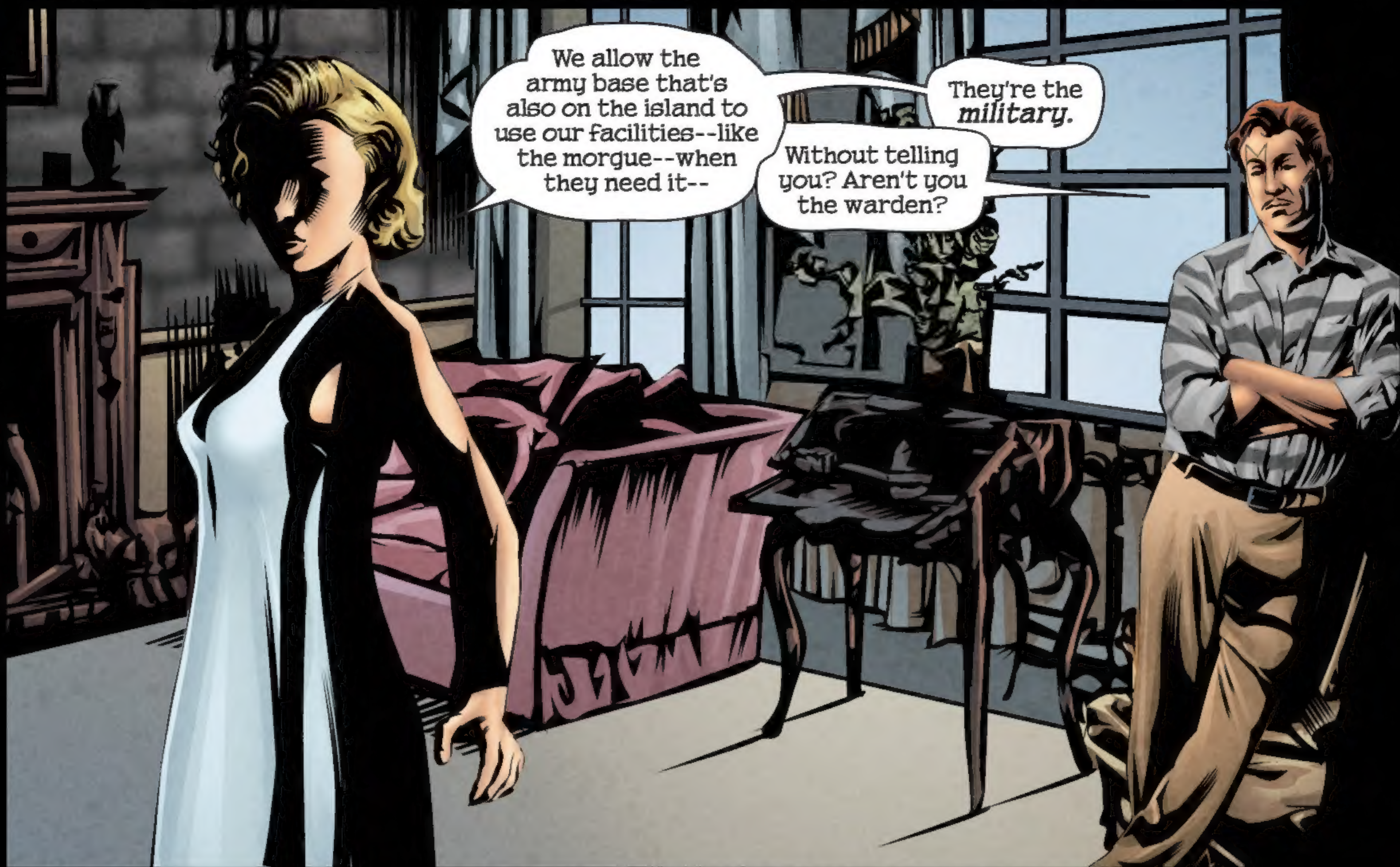


KLANNING









We allow the army base that's also on the island to use our facilities--like the morgue--when they need it--

They're the *military*.

Without telling you? Aren't you the warden?



Now you tell me how you got out--

No time.



I've got to go send a message.

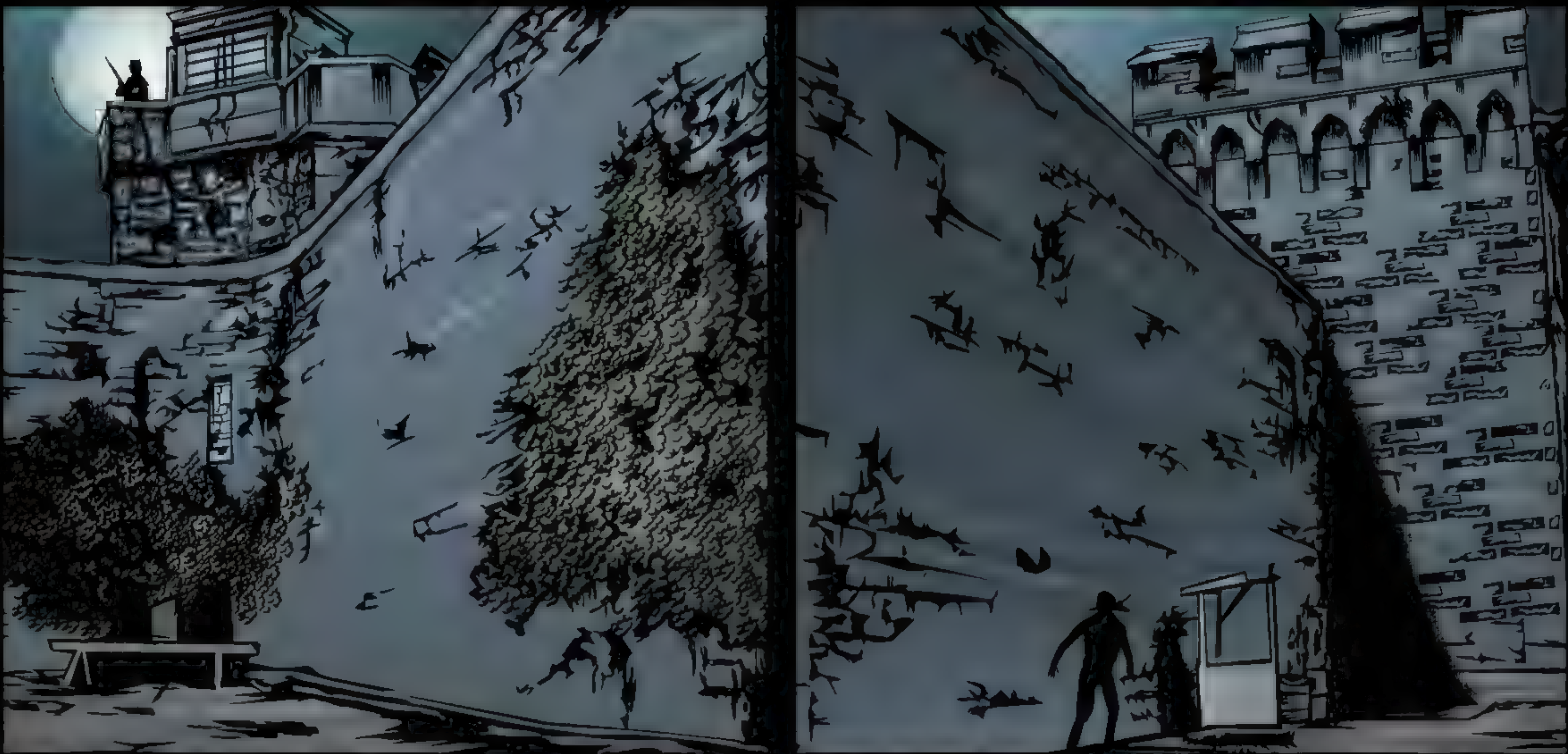
You're staying put.

Wait.



Tighter.

Please.







GGGGGGHHHH!!

KRRRN CCHH

Guards...
kkkk...see...

Why don't...
they...stop...

Hhhh....



Halloway's
six hours late,
now.



He was
supposed to radio
for a rendezvous
after he escaped.

Whether he
found out where
the gem was
or not.



Cap'n, what
should we do,
eh?



We should
agree with me that
this was--hrrrp--
an incredibly stupid
plan to begin
with?



I'll radio
Cyclops in New
York, eh? Maybe he'll
have some bright
ideas.

And
he'll likely be
sober...



Mister
Halloway.

We meet
again.



Or is
this the first
time?

I'm not sure
if the one time I
met you it was you or
your twin brother
Robert.

My
understanding is
he liked pretending
to be you.

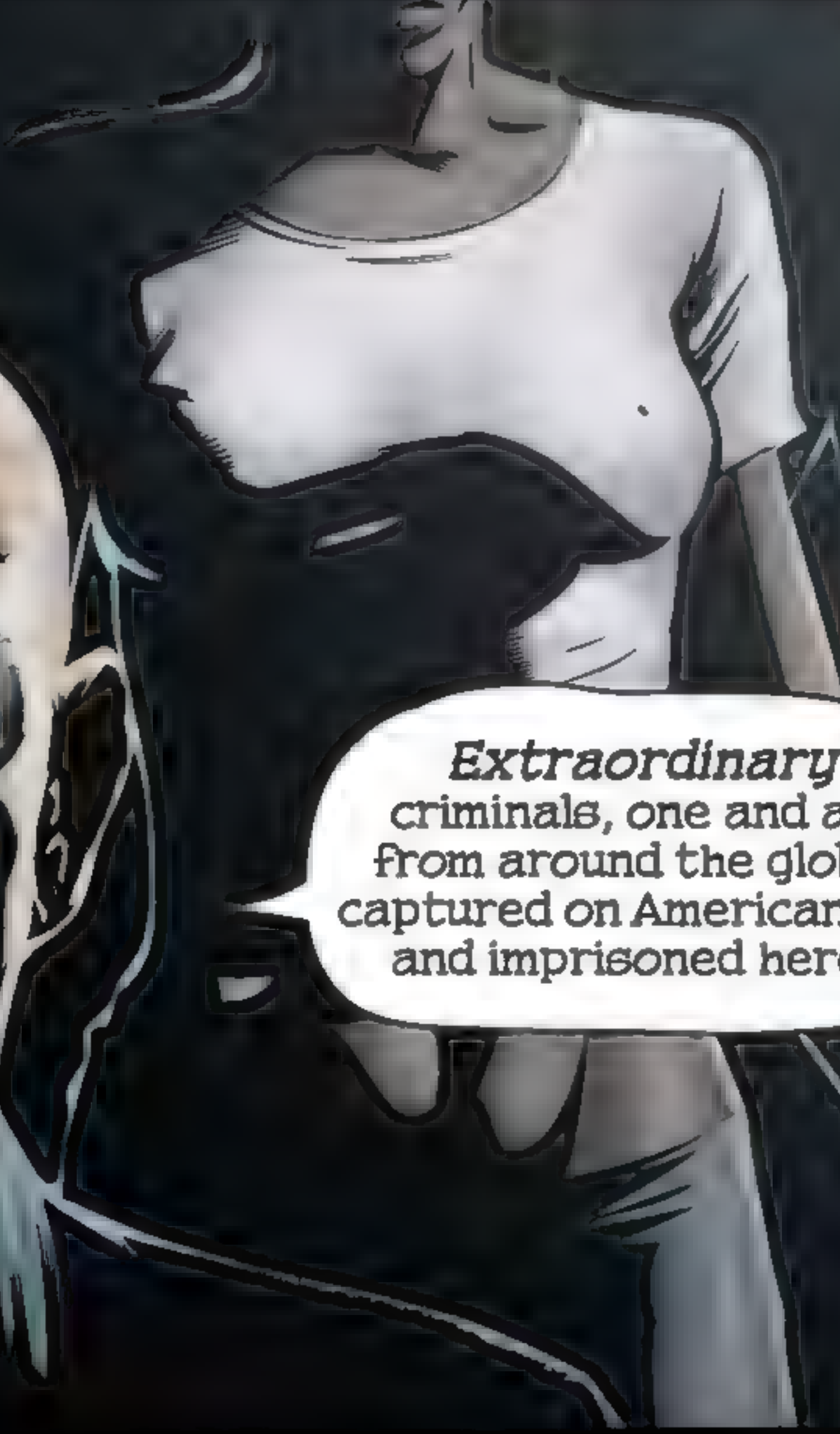
My condolences
on your loss, by
the way.



I believe you
already know my
assistant, Ms. Magnus,
daughter of the late Chief
of Detectives back
in New York.



And you've met my new
"X" Men, if you'll forgive
that narcissistic
phrase.



Extraordinary
criminals, one and all,
from around the globe,
captured on American soil
and imprisoned here.



Genosha Bay
is really the most
fascinating place
for study.

A giant
stone Petri dish
of depravity.



Herr Wagner
started out in the
circus before becoming
the top second-story
man in Europe.



Don't let Comrade
Rasputin's size fool you.
It's his artistic talent the
Bolsheviks want to ship him
to Siberia for--he's an expert
forger of artworks and
official documents.



And Ororo's
skills at thievery are
so renowned, even at her
delicate age, that she is
literally **worshipped** by
the footpads of Cairo,
if you can believe it.



And now I have you.

I'm no sociopath.



Can you be so sure? It has a nasty habit of running in families.

And your brother Robert... *tsk, tsk.*

Killed a girl, did he not?



One of your psychotic students. In self-defense.

I can't help you if you throw up these barriers.

Why bother helping me?



Your student Warden Frost doesn't believe sociopathy is curable.

Then why let you study here?

That she does not.



What better way to be proven right than to watch your old teacher fail?

Emma does not let me use her beautiful prison for free, however.

She would like me to find out how you got out of your cell.



I'm multitasked.



I would strongly advise you to tell me...



Or you'll... torture me?

They teach you that at Harvard, Professor Xavier?



Please. I am a scientist and a humanitarian.

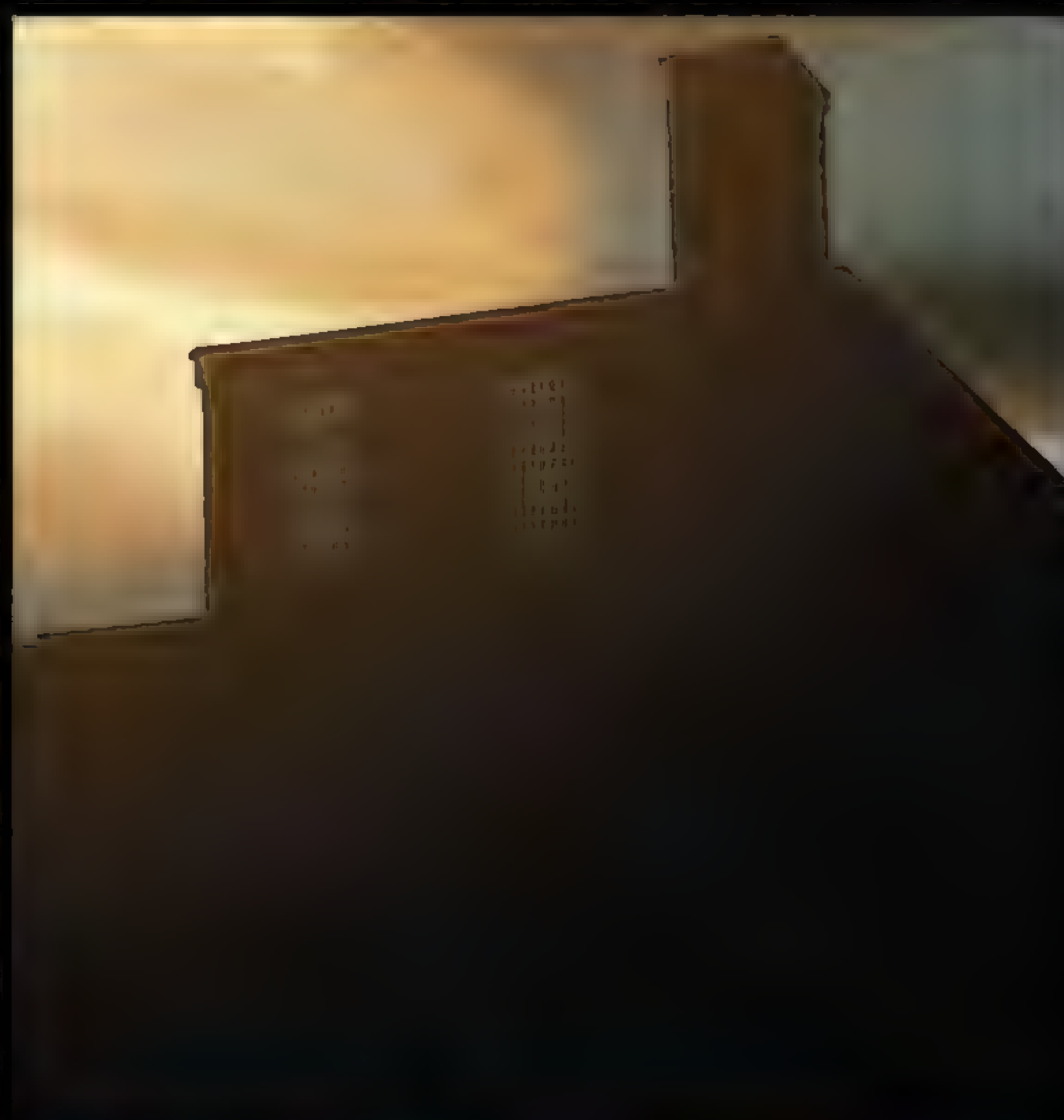
I won't lay a finger on you.



And in a week, you will be *begging* to tell me.



Welcome to *Project: Wideawake*, Mister Halloway.



Oh Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling



You think this impresses me, Professor "X"?

I've studied Vipassana meditation in Ceylon...

So this...



...this is like
a vacation...



Aaahhh!!



should've
saved you





KLIK

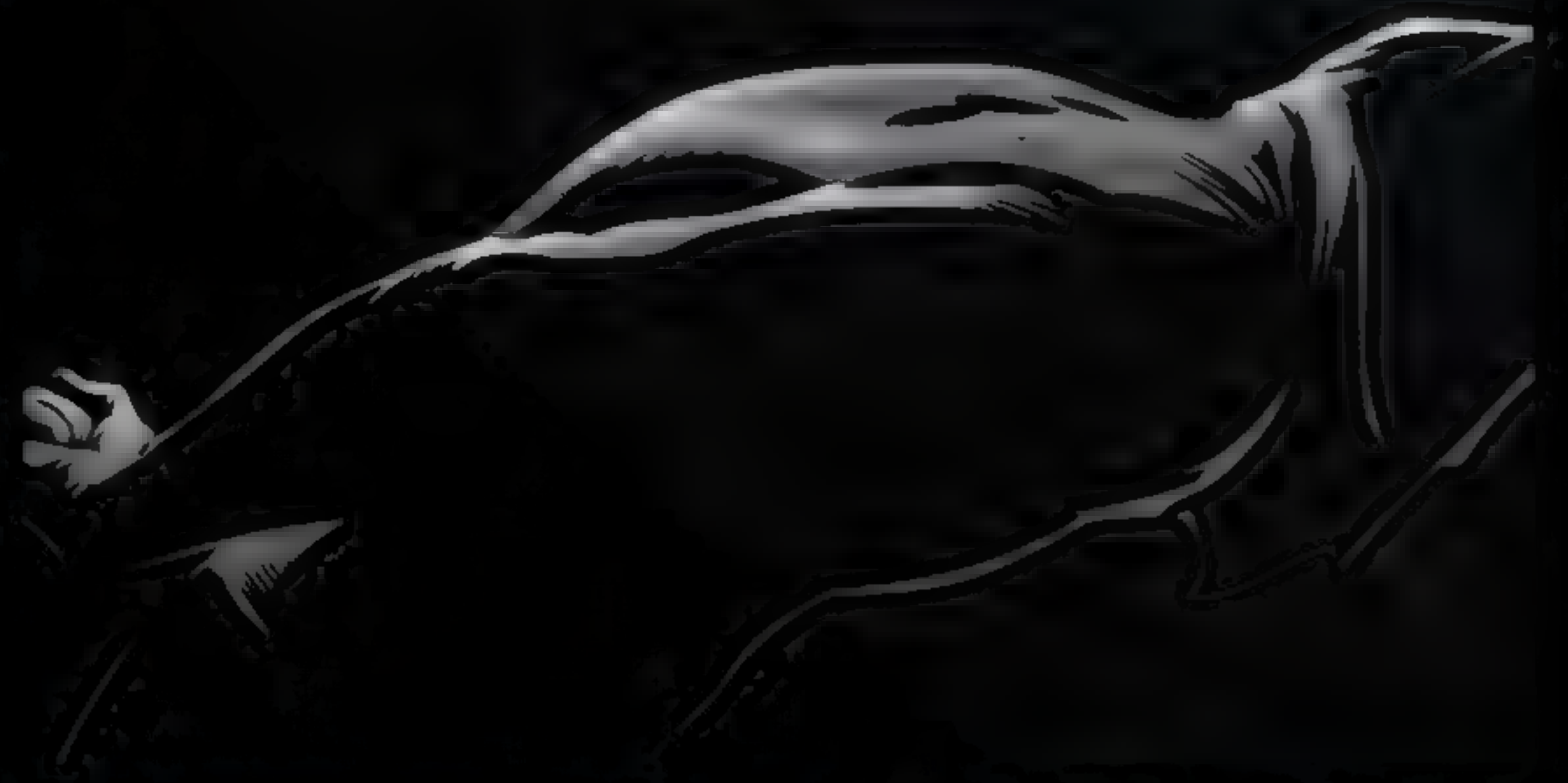
Thanks...Thank
you. Could use
a break...

The lack
of sleep is
one thing...

But the
heat...and the
glare...is...

Hey! HEY!

Help!
HELLLLLLP!!



SSPILLSHH

GILGGGG!!

Where's the
gem?

WHERE'S THE
GOD DAMN GEM
OF CYTTORAK YOU
PIECE OF ~~SHIT~~?!



SSPILLSHH



Hnnnnh!



Seventy-two hours without sleep.

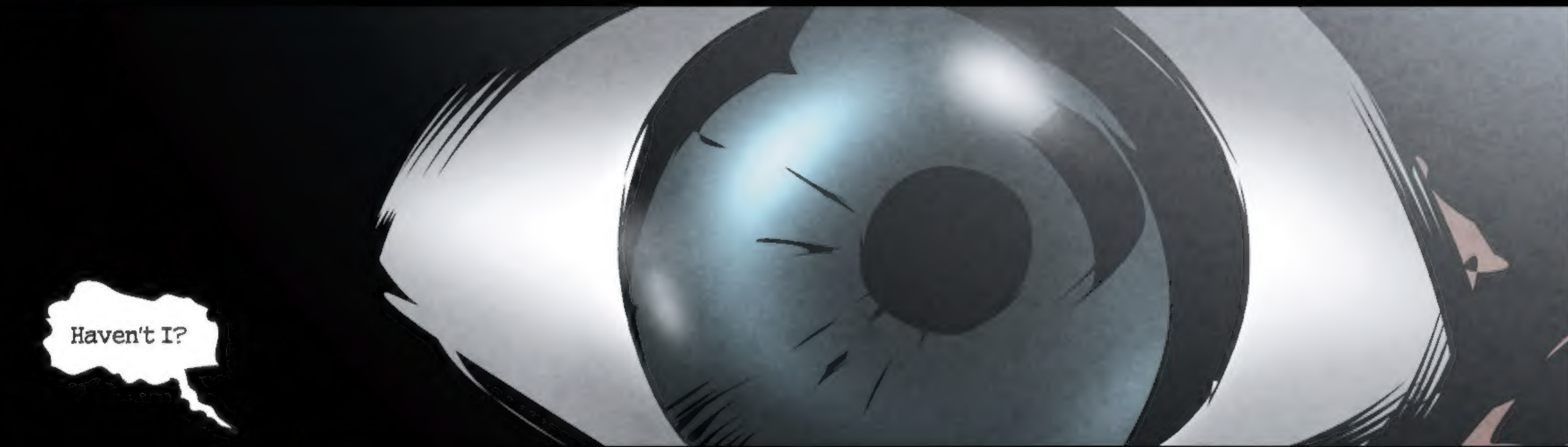
Have you started hallucinating yet?



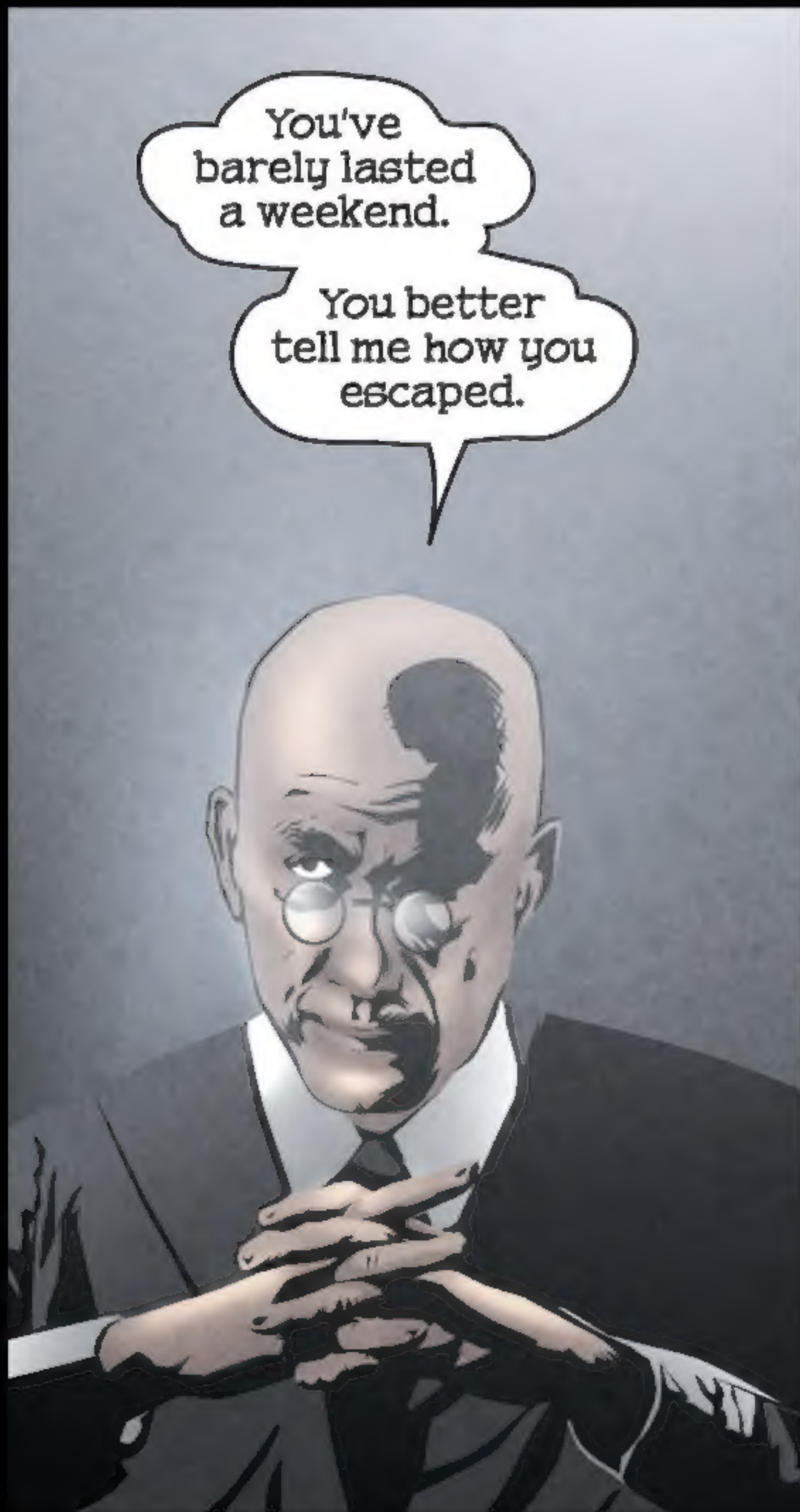
Stop. It's been a week.

I've been counting.

I've...I've been here a week.

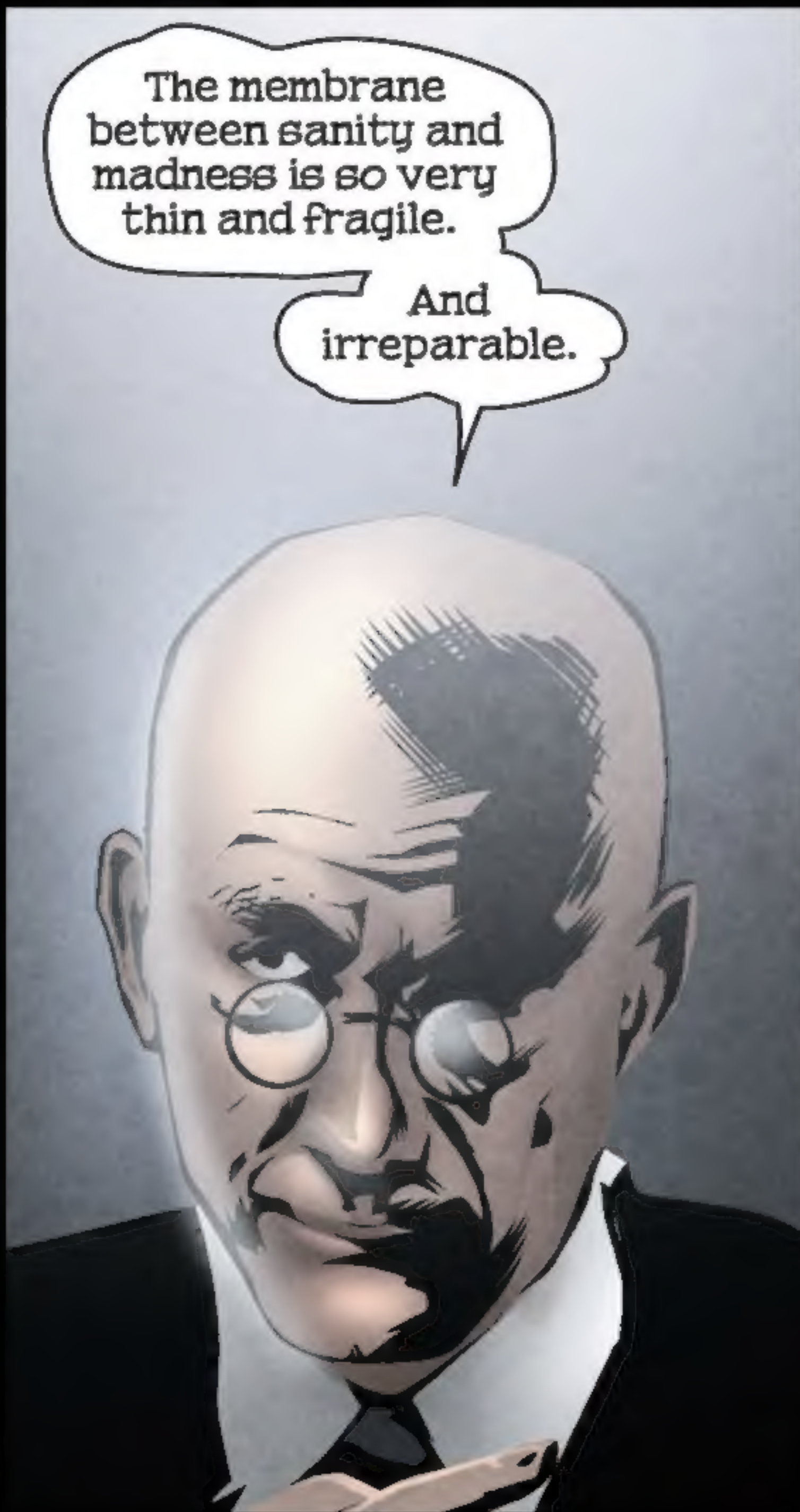


Haven't I?



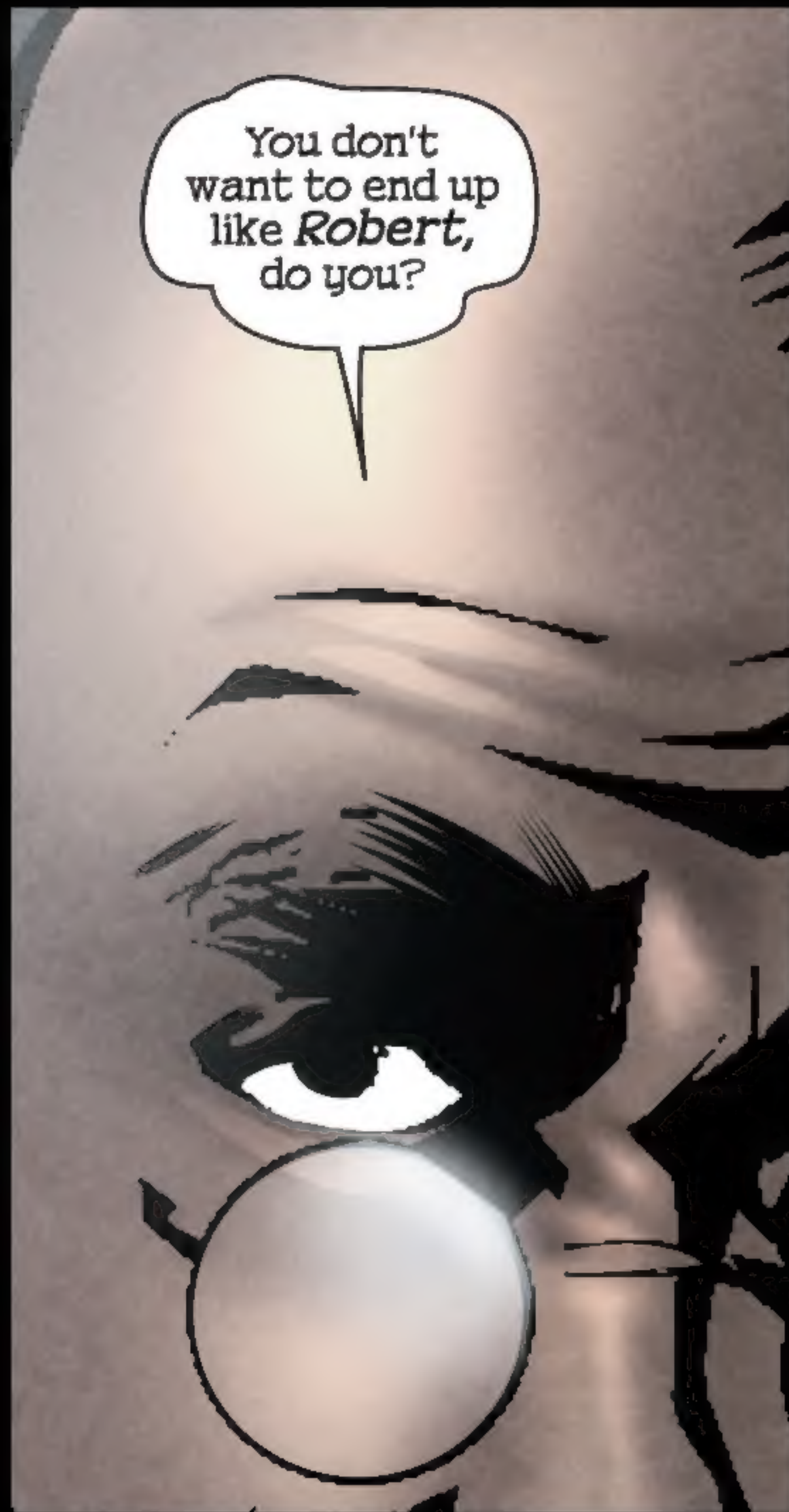
You've barely lasted a weekend.

You better tell me how you escaped.

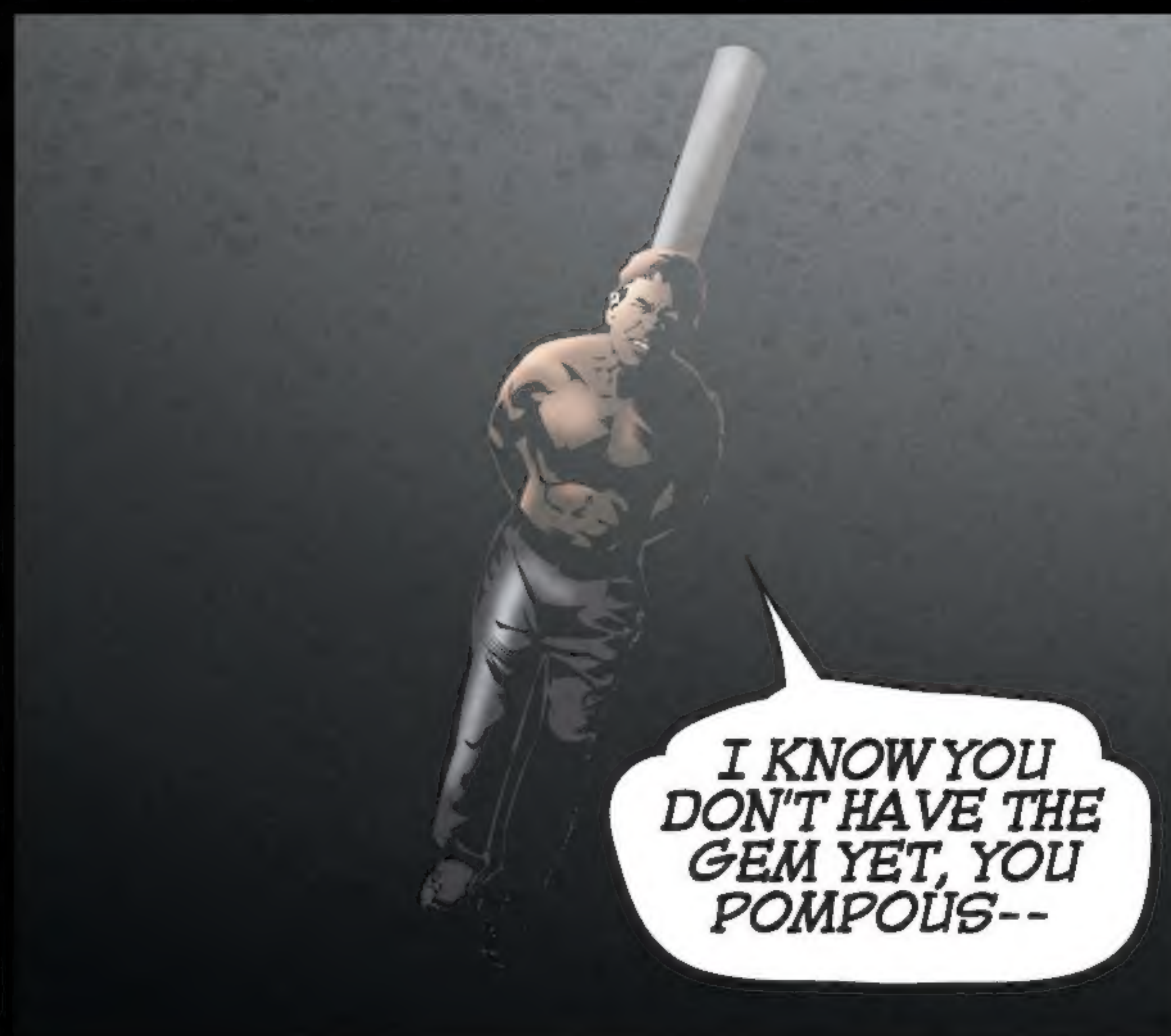


The membrane between sanity and madness is so very thin and fragile.

And irreparable.



You don't want to end up like *Robert*, do you?





...is me.

All right,
Robert. You
win.

What did
you have in
mind?

NEXT ISSUE



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